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expenditures, and others have decreased, and in the end, the bill is revenue...is budget neutral, so there, in the total, there is not an increase in state spending.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bohlke, to speak to the committee amendments.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, certainly I think that these are amendments that we, obviously, need to do. I just want to discuss on record with Senator Wesely, so we have it recognized in the area of child care that we've all said is very important, and that we are extending the time, and when it goes statewide. One thing that when I carried the welfare reform bill, we talked about having a pilot project in the rural areas because we thought the problems would be different in some of the rural areas than they are in the metro areas, and since that time, operating the pilot project in the five-county area in Hastings, we have established that there is a real lack of child care, the quality of child care that is necessary, and the availability. And, as you know, I have an amendment filed on this bill. As we try to work it out, hopefully we can do that and find the money, though the problem is this. We have, the request, we are 500 short of the necessary child care spots in Hastings alone. Webster County only has one approved child care provider. We have all said, and many of us that were here that voted for the welfare reform bill, recognized that child care was one of the primary concerns, that it was necessary to have in place available in order to make the whole welfare reform project work. I just want it on record now to say that we have a recognized problem, one that does not surprise me, but one that is there in rural Nebraska, that we do not have available child care. The amendment that I have filed on the bill addresses that issue of trying to put together for the pilot project the child care that's necessary in order to make it work before we go statewide. I think that it's a commitment all of us made when we passed the bill on welfare reform, certainly one we talked about a great deal, and I know one that Senator Wesely has been very concerned with in the whole area of available child care. And so I wanted to raise that issue, that I think it's something as we discuss this and the welfare reform at this